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THE
'CENTENNIAL'

SKETCH OF

CLAY COUNTY,

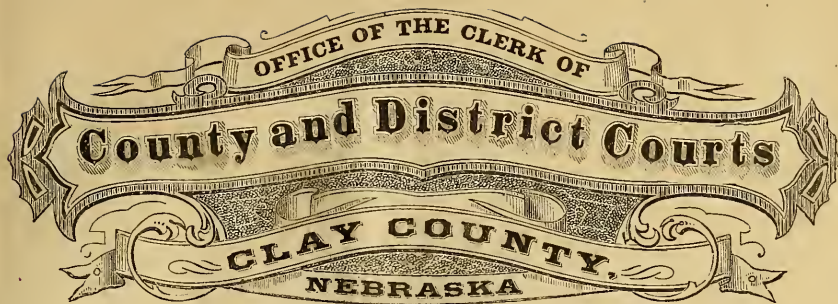
NEBRASKA.

COMPILED BY THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE AND READ
BY DR. CLARK, CHAIRMAN, AT THE CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE
AT SUTTON, THE COUNTY SEAT,

JULY FOURTH 1876.



E. H. WHITE, PUBLISHER,
SUTTON, NEBRASKA.



Sutton,

187

I John B Dinsmore County Clerk of Clay County Nebraska do hereby Certify that the Original "Centennial" Historical Sketch of which this is a True Copy has this day been filed in my Office.

That the Same is in pursuance of An Act of Congress approved March 13th 1876 and in pursuance of a Proclamation of his Excellency Silverthorne Governor of the State of Nebraska dated April 25th 1876 In Testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand and Official Seal this 30th day of August - 1876

John B Dinsmore

THE 'CENTENNIAL'

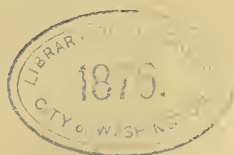
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1876

Printed at the Office of the
Clay Co. Globe,

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY.

E. H. WHITE, Editor & Proprietor.

SUTTON

NEBRASKA.

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A History
OF
CLAY COUNTY, NEB.

COMPILED BY THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE, AND READ BY
DR. MARTIN CLARK, CHAIRMAN, AT THE CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE
AT SUTTON, NEBRASKA

July 4th., 1876.

INTRODUCTORY.

In accordance with a joint resolution of Congress on the Centennial celebration of American Independence in the several towns and counties in the United States, approved March 13, 1876, and the Proclamation of His Excellency, Silas Garber, Governor of the State of Nebraska; done at Lincoln, the Capital, April 25, 1876, meetings were held, after having been advertised, at Sutton and Harvard in May, 1876, to appoint committees to compile the history of Clay county, and the several towns situated in the county, and to make proper arrangements to celebrate the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America.

The committees appointed were

Dr. Martin Clark, Sutton.

Judge J. R. Maltby, "

Erastus H. White, "

Ezra Brown, Harvard.

Ira F. Pearsall, "

J. T. Fleming, "

To which were added by appointment of the committees elected at Harvard and Sutton, Wm. J. Waite, Edgar, and Richard Bayly, Fairfield.

At a joint meeting of the above historical committees held at Sutton, June 26, 1876, it was decided to authenticate the history of the organiza-

tion of the county and all statistical material, &c., from the County Records, which has been done; also that the county history should be written by Precincts, and an extended history of each town be added as part of the same.

It has been the aim of the committee to present in the following pages, a history that shall be alike impartial, accurate and truthful.

Historical Sketch of Sutton.

Luther French, born at Painsville, Geauga county, Ohio, looked over and located his homestead upon the N½ of N, W¼ Sec. 2, Town 7, Range 5, upon which is the original town of Sutton, on the 14, day of March 1870. June 5, of the same year he moved upon it and made permanent settlement, camping near the north section line, on the creek, for a few weeks, when he built his house, partly in the banks of School Creek; he was the first white settler in the town and precinct. The house is still standing on the margin of the grove and was logged up, on the inside, covered with bark and dirt, having the ground for a floor, and is in much the same condition as when built though long since abandoned. On one side of the dug-out was a blind chamber, under ground, this was connected with the outer world by a subterranean passage some rods in length and reaching down to the creek bank below. Here Mr. French gathered and hid his treasures.—1

flock of motherless children, when attacked by Indians.

That summer Mr. French broke about six acres of land at the east part of town—his nearest neighbors in the county were at Spring Rancho on the Little Blue, some twenty-five miles south-west, at which place the settlement of the county commenced. The next settler on the town site was James C. Vroman who took a soldiers homestead upon the quarter section south of Mr. French, built a dug-out on the creek near C. M. Turner's present residence, and began cultivating the land. During 1870 there were plenty of elk, deer, antelope, beaver and wolves.

In the spring of 1871, Mr. French sowed about four acres of wheat, thrashed it by "treading out," winnowed it in the wind and floured it at Milford, Seward county, forty-eight miles below here, on the Big Blue, which at that time was the nearest grist mill. The neighbors had a bee to aid him in his harvest and are said to have got a "little too much in their heads," ending in a frolic and a general good time of fun and rejoicing.

May 4th 1871, P. W. Gray, his son John M., son-in-law G. W. Bemis with W. Cunning and wife came into the town. All settling on land immediately adjoining town; Mrs. Cunning was the first married white woman that settled near town.

In May 1871 the first business house was established by one Mr. McTyge, was built of boards and located nearly between the houses of H. W. Gray and A. A. McCoy, there the town started and grew for several months till the railroad crossed the draw, and then it moved west to its present location. Mr. McTyge's stock consisted of whisky and groceries. About the same time Kearney & Kelley started a saloon in a tent—P. H. Curran and Mart Higgins started another saloon soon following.

These saloons preceded the railroad builders, and most of them vanished as the railroad passed forward to the west.

Andrew Sherwood was the first cunning worker in metals among us, and commenced blowing his forge and swinging his hammer in a sod shop, just below the French dug-out, in June 1871. About this time J. R. Maltby came up

from Crete, Neb., followed soon after by Wm. A. Way. These men jumped the claim of J. C. Vroman contesting it at Lincoln and Washington and succeeded in getting it canceled, and the title perfected in themselves, as elsewhere recorded. In February, 1873, they laid it out as the first addition to Sutton.

August 23d 1871. Thurlow Weed came from Lincoln and brought with him a car-load of lumber, the first one in the county, and for some time managed the lumber trade for Monnell, Lasley & Weed, of which firm he was a member. On the following day, John M. Gray & Co., shipped a car-load of lumber from Lincoln and have continued in the same business until the present time. J. M. Gray was commissioned a Notary Public soon after, the first one in the county. Among the early men, of the town, who have gone away, are Asa Tracy who kept the first boarding and lodging house, and afterwards a store; gone west. Chas. Calkins who followed the same business; gone west. Old father Lytch a comical and very good-natured man kept a saloon in the building now occupied by Bagley & Bemis; after losing his health, quit the business, bequeathed his property to charitable purposes and died.

Thornton R. Linton came from Iowa and commenced the livery business with four horses, Sept. 20th 1871. His first stable was built out of poles covered with prairie hay; He now has a spacious stable on Saunders avenue, well supplied with horses and carriages.

August 12th, 1871, Mr. French laid out the town in about 600 lots, and on a suggestion of Mr. Maltby it was named Sutton from a town of the same name in Massachusetts.

The first caucus in the town was held in the fall of 1871 at French's dugout.

October 14th 1871 an election was held at the house of Alexander Campbell, near Harvard, at which election Sutton was made the county seat by a vote of 55 to 43, and has retained it ever since.

The first white child born here was the little daughter, since deceased, of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Gross, born February 15th 1872.

The first death was that of little Maude Tracy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Asa Tracy, April 21st, 1872. It was the first shadow that death had cast over the town. She was a general favorite—everyone missed her. To her funeral all went; although no solemn bell tolled, everyone was sad, and the well known requiem was sung at her grave. "She sleeps in the Valley so sweet."

The first shooting affray that occurred in the town and in this part of the county was occasioned by a jealousy between Mullen and his partner, saloon-keepers; Flynn shot Mullen in the face although not seriously. These fellows were fascinated by the charms of an Omaha belle.

Gray & Bemis established a nursery business Nov. 1st 1871, shipping a general assortment of fruit trees, small fruits shrubs and ornamental trees.

In February 1872 the first directory of the town and county was published by Houston and Street, since dissolved, at Lincoln. The description of the town in that directory forms the basis of nearly all that has since been written. The directory contained in dry-goods and groceries 3, flour and feed 2, Drugs 1, hardware 1, lumber 2, hotels 1, implements 1, nursery 1, livery 1, fur and hides 1, meat market 1, real estate 2, doctors 1, attorneys 1, notary public 1, shoemaker 1.

Wm Woolman was then the shoe maker and also the first resident minister in the town. In all there were but 21 business and professional men.

Then the combined capital of the town was \$15,000, amount of business per year \$25,000. Whole number of houses and buildings in town was 20.

Today we have in dry goods and groceries 5, dry goods 1, grocers 1, hardware 2, drugs 2; millinery 2, meat market 1, shoe store 1, shoe makers 2, blacksmiths 3, carriage makers 2, cabinet maker and turniture 1; builders 4; jewelers 1; Livery 1; Hotels 2. Lumber dealers 2, Grain dealers 6. Stock dealers 3, Implements 5. Proprietary medicine manufacturers 1, newspapers 2 lawyers 7, doctors 4, clergymen 2, notaries 4, brickmakers 1, ice dealers 1, billiard balls 3, harness makers 2, barber 1. Other business and agencies of all kinds 51. Total business and professions 126

If this can be considered an index to our material progress, then we have the remarkable ratio of increase, as 1 is to 64.

The combined capital of Sutton, exclusive of foreign agencies, invested in trade is \$70,000; total yearly trade \$310,000; this does not include either the Express, Postoffice nor Railroad business.

POPULATION.

Four years ago the population was in all 35; population now, 415.

VALUATION.

Present tax valuation of real estate in	
Sutton is	34,016
Personal property	38,988
Railroad bed	4,000
total	\$77,004

For assistance, in gathering material from public records for this sketch; the committee recognize, the valuable services of J B Dinsmore county clerk, his deputy M J Hull and F M Brown former county clerk,

Nov. 1st 1871, Isaac N, and Martin Clark came from Illinois and Ohio, respectively, and purchased the unsold portion of the town site of Mr. French for \$4,000. They immediately commenced the building which is now the Clark House and in February the following year put in a stock of hardware and drugs, these stocks were the first of their kind in the town or county and the earliest on the B. & M. west of Crete, I. N. Clark & Co. opened the hardware February 20, and Martin Clark & Co., the drugs February 10th 1872.

C. M. Turner, on Nov. 17, 1871, came up from Crete, and built a store near where he lives, facing north to a street that has since been moved several lots south and now called Elm street. Dec. 9th he opened a stock of general merchandise and shipped the first full carload of flour to the town. Corey & Co. came up at the same time and built beside Mr. Turner. These two firms were always spirited rivals. Corey & Co. sold out to Stewart & Evans, went to Crete and have since failed.

At this time most of the town was all on this, now obliterated street, which extended down as far as the present switch and was called "whiskey row." After wards the town, like a balky, head strong horse, went east across the draw. The Clarks and Grays building the trussle bridge east of the Court house to go over on. I. N. Clark & Co built and stocked a hardware store down on Main avenue, also Martin Clark and Co a drug store, this was late in 1872.

Then came Merrill & Co., built and stocked a general store, early in January followed by John I. Smith in the harness business and Chas. Meyer boot and shoe shop. About the same time A. Burlingame bought out Judge Malby's interest in the building he had previously built for a post office; afterward Mr. Burlingame added a lean-to. and J. M. Gray put up a building south of the post-office. Charley Calkins and W. B. Jenkins built houses and Grays moved the Mines building, which was the first school-house, over for an office. The new town flourished. A lot of sorghum came growing in that part of town gave it the name of Sorghum. The impetus given by the es-

establishment of the depot, and the surveying of the first addition to Sutton by Mulby and Way, checked the progress of the building of east Sutton, for a business point, and accordingly the business men one by one came back, and excepting J. M. Gray and Co and H W Gray located on Saunders avenue. Fixed in the memory of the actors in that movement are the awful big stories General Warren Hull used to spin in the stores through the winter and the lays of Charley Meyer's clarinet in the summer evenings when his days work was done. That part of town, afterwards built south of the track was called Scrabble Hill.

Thompson and Young commenced the agricultural implement business Jan. 1st. 1872 and were the earliest in that business in the county. They sold the first year \$10,000 worth of implements and were succeeded by Thompson Bros.

Stewart and Evans succeeded to the business of Corey and Co, October 9th. 1872. Two years later Geo. Stewart and Co purchased and carried on the business.

April 1st 1873 Wm. A. Way came up from Crete and started a hardware store in the Futzeraid building; this was the third building south of the track, the first was built by F A Gross in the fall of 1872. In the spring of '73 Kribbler built a furniture store now occupied by Geo. Honey. Soon after commencing business Mr Way built the building now occupied by Weed and Co who succeeded him in business in 1874.

In the fall of 1873 Way and Stewart built the double building occupied by Keller and Co and Merrill and Co.

Among the early settlers in Sutton precinct are Russel and John Merrill and their families who settled on Section 20. Russel built his house in the summer of 1871, a frame house ceiled, which was a great luxury in those times. John built in the fall. Most of the houses were made of scds with roof covered with sods and ground floors. The settlers often used boxes and nail kegs for chairs, and board, home made tables were common articles of furniture.

Indeed the people in the town and country never dreamed of a suit of rooms, but were very proud if they had one room in a house. Dug outs constructed in the banks of ravines were also a very fashionable way of living when the people were either afraid of the winds or came in too late to build better houses.

Merrill and Co commenced business on Main avenue Jan. 1875, and dealt in Dry-Goods and Groceries. Russel raised and the firm shipped the first car of grain from this county Aug. 14th 1873.

Conner and Sheppard respectively from Ohio and Illinois opened an exclusive grocery store in March 1873 and were the first exclusive grocers in the town.

Dec. 15. 1873 Markus Wittenberg a native of Hungary came from Topeka Kan. and opened a confectionery and fruit-store, afterwards added Groceries and Dry Goods.

Aug. 10th. 1873 Mrs. C. M. Church opened a millinery store. Mrs M V Foote's was the first one in the place.

Melvin Bros. came from Fillmore, Neb and commenced business in Dry Goods and Groceries in Aug. 1873. Gross, Kribbler, Turner and the Melvins are the pioneer store builders in that flourishing part of town south of the track.

Grice and Towslee established their harness business Feb. 25 1875. successors to John I. Smith, a very talkative chap who flourished in Sorghum's palmv days, and whose business card still remains all over the the front of his former shop on Main avenue. On the same day J F Evans and Co opened their lumber yard successors to Mounell, Lashley and Weed.

F W Hohmann came in from Lincoln Neb. and opened a dry-goods and grocery store, in June 1874. He was a musician by profession and organized Cornet bands at Harvard and Sutton.

John B. Eaton and Son built a grain ware house Feb 1. 1874. The building was afterwards sold to Eaton and Pyle and later passed into the hands of F A Pyle and Co. Eaton and Pyle enlarged it to a horse power elevator having a storage capacity of 7,000 bushels and a daily capacity of 1,000.

J F Evans and Co, T A Margrave manager commenced the grain business in the fall of 1874. this company are extensive dealers it being a series of seven extending from the Mississippi River to Sutton, there being five in Iowa and two in Nebraska. The daily capacity of their elevator in Sutton is 2,000 bushels.

McKee and Robinson commenced the photograph business in the summer of 1873. Afterwards McKee succeeded to the business.

W J Keller and Co, druggists, commenced operations Nov. 30, 1875; they are successors to J Thompson and Co. who commenced business in the fall of 1873.

Alcorn and Glyce commenced business in agricultural implements Sept. 15, '75; successors to Alcorn and Colvard.

J E Ryan from Illinois commenced business May 1st, 1876; operating the

first exclusively dry-goods store in the county.

May 19, 1876, Mrs F A Gross opened a millinery store and dress-making establishment.

In the Spring of 1876, B B Corwin commenced in the boot and shoe trade, the first of the kind in Sutton.

The Sutton Brick Company, J S LeHew, Superintendent, I N Clark, Treasurer commenced the successful manufacture of brick June 1st, 1876.

April 22, 1876, Sherwood and Torrey opened their meat market. Krieger and Biltzer were in this business before them and had a shop just north of Grays lumber yard. After the shop was moved onto Saunders avenue, W Cuning bought into the firm and sold out again to Krieger.

Afterwards Cuning was appointed deputy sheriff which office he holds up to the present time. Earlier he used to be a great man to drive work and did most of the heavy hauling in the town. Later Eugene Bemis succeeded to the business and had a dray built, the first one in the town.

The first builder in town was Henry Potter now of Spring Rancho. He built P. H. Curran's saloon near the last of May 1871.

The first plastered building in Sutton was the County Court house built and plastered early in 1873. The masons came from Crete.

Other trades not before mentioned are A A Scott, Montgomery and Bro, Emery and Bro. and I B Terryll; Builders.

W W Jordan, and Farris and Co. masons.

Spencer and Co. Wm Smeltser and James Mcvey; Blacksmiths.

Daniel Crouin and F. J. Hoerger; carriage and wagon makers.

Paul Braitsch, successor to J D Harris, Jeweller.

B B Crouin and Geo Karcher; shoe makers.

Ramsey and Griffith; house and sign painters.

John Nebf; harness maker.

Augustus Meyer, Barber.

Wm Ryan, P H Curran and James Stewart; Billiards.

BUILDINGS.

Among the residences having considerable pretensions to elegance, are the houses of J B Dinsmore; county clerk and F M Davis Treasurer, also that of J E Bagley, F M Brown, W E Bemis, Samuel Conn; James Melvin; S B Montgomery and Geo Stewart. And the costly houses of the leaders of the Russian colony; Grosshans; Hoffman

and Griess; also the residences of Messrs. C M Turner, Geo Alcorn, J W Shirley, D L Cornwell and J D Harris' two story 24x50 frame building.

Noticeable among the many buildings that space does not allow mention is the two story building with Masonic hall above of I N Clark and Co; store building of Conner and Sheppard one story, 22x70, the two story building, with Odd Fellows Hall of John Grosshans 24x60, and the one story building of Henry Griess, hardware 24x60, one story of Weed and Co. and store same size occupied by J E Ryan, and Turner and Hunter's store 20x80. County court house two stories. New public school building 40x40, with appropriate and artistic projections, each way; 24 foot posts, with a belfry and dome. It has two rooms below and a chapel full size above, with all the modern conveniences of cloak and apparatus rooms, cost \$4,000.00.

The First Congregational Church, the first church building in the town or county, is 28x40 feet, 16 foot ceiling, and was erected in the fall of 1875, cost \$1,500.

The first Methodist Episcopal church of brick; now, building. 30x40 18 feet high-

total number of buildings in town four years ago, 20

total number of buildings now 150. In that period of time there has been five business failures, the period including the money panic of 1873 and grass hopper famine of 1874.

The county commissioners appointed the first board of trustees for the town of Sutton in November 1874. They were F M Brown, Martin Clark; James Melvin; John C Merrill, Wm A Way. The next board were elected in May 1875; and were J C Merrill, Martin Clark, Geo Stewart, Paul Braitsch and Wm A Way. The present board elected in May 1876 are E P Church, I N Clark, F A Pyle, James Sheppard and J W Shirley.

The first school building in Sutton was a frame house, built by Owen Mines, and stood nearly between the present residences of C. M. Turner and Mr. Rowe; It was sold at sheriff's sale to the Clark Brothers to satisfy a lumber debt in favor of Mr. Weed; afterward it was rented one year for what it cost, to Thompson & Young; then sold to J. M. Gray & Co, for an office, which they now occupy. William Weed taught the first school in the town, and the second in the county, commencing about the 20th of January, 1872; average attendance 14.

SUTTON HOTELS.

William Shirley came from Lincoln, Nebraska December 7th, 1871; In February, 1872 he built the first hotel in the place; The part built then was moved back, in June 1874, and is now used for a kitchen, and in its place was built the present 'Central Hotel,' which was formally opened for guests June 22d, 1874, the event being celebrated in the evening by toasts and speeches.

The building now known as the 'Clark House,' was used, up to January 1st, 1873, by Clark Bros. for the sale of hardware and drugs; at that date it was opened as a hotel, by Dudley Holsington, until the 10th of August 1873, when it passed into the hands of E. P. Church, who has been its proprietor ever since; Mr. Church is a native of New York, but came to Sutton from Beatrice Neb.

NEWSPAPERS.

"The Sutton Times," weekly, was established and issued its first number on Friday, June 26th 1873; It was at that time a five column quarto, with "patent inside;" It had nine columns of advertising and eleven columns of local reading matter; In the first issue was an article on the early settlement of Sutton; there were represented in its advertising matter, twenty three different branches of business and professions; It is now an eight column folio, "patent inside," with 8 columns of advertising and 44 advertisers; excepting for a short time after starting, it has been the official paper of the county; Republican in politics; edited and published at commencement by Wellman & Brakeman, and successively by Wellman & White, Wellman Brothers, and now by Frank E. Wellman.

"The Clay County Herald" was started and issued its first number Saturday, June 21st, 1873; edited and published by J. M. Schier, and Wm. J. Cowan; its last issue was published in the fall of 1873, when it failed; It was a seven column folio, "patent inside," with a liberal amount of advertising; Independent in politics.

"The Clay County Globe," semi-weekly, was established and issued its first number July 14th 1875, F. M. Comstock, editor, J. S. LeHew, business manager; It was a 4 column folio, all printed at home; Independent in politics. October 1st 1875, it was purchased by E. H. White, who has edited and published it since weekly; Republican in politics; October 29th, 1875, it was enlarged to a six column folio, "patent inside," and is now the official paper of the Iowa of Sutton. It now has six columns of local reading matter and six columns of advertising, and forty-two advertisers.

A B Lucore settled and built a large two story business house, 18x40 feet, on Main avenue in the spring of 1873. He first came to Sutton with Messrs Gray, Canning and Bemis, in 1871, and located at that time on land a few miles east of town, upon which he built a large frame house.

THE LAWYERS

The following is a list of the lawyers in the order in which they settled and commenced practice;

Robert G. Brown, a native of Illinois, settled April 10th., 1871—the first lawyer in the county. His first case and the first law-suit in the county, was before John R. Maltby, Probate Judge, November 2nd, 1871. The case was about a well, James S Schermerhorn, Plaintiff, vs David P Jayne, Defendant. Mr Brown was attorney for the plaintiff, and won the suit, receiving a fee of \$10. He is a Notary Public; and was a delegate to the National Republican convention at Cincinnati, Ohio, June 14th. 1876.

Hosea W Gray, a native of Pennsylvania, settled May 4th. 1871, and commenced practicing law Nov. 2nd 1871, having been consulted in the Schermerhorn vs Jayne case. His next case was before A. K. Marsh, Justice of the Peace, where he appeared for the defendant in the case of Ellison vs Hull, and won the suit.

H W Gray and A A McCoy, both from Marion, Iowa, commenced their law, collection and real-estate business March 12th 1871 and have continued to the present time. Mr Gray was formerly a member of the Constitutional convention of Iowa.

J S LeHew, a native of Ohio, came here from Fillmore county in 1874, was admitted to the bar in Feb, 1875, and commenced the law, pension and collection business. He has been town clerk for two successive years.

John E. Bagley, a native of Iowa, came from Falls city, Nebraska, to this place, Sept 4th 1874, and commenced practicing law. He is now in the law firm of Bagley and Bemis.

E. H. White, a native of Ohio, and G W Bemis, a native of New York, were admitted to the bar May 23d 1874 and commenced practice together continuing so for about seven months. Mr. White is alone in the law and collection business. He was the founder of the York Monitor, the first newspaper in York county, and settled here in July 1873, and for a short time, owned a half interest in the Sutton Times; He is also editor and proprietor of the Clay County Globe, a newspaper published weekly in Sutton.

G W Bemis is a notary public, and is now in company with Mr. Bagley, in the law business.

J S LeHew and J W Shirley are Justices of the Peace.

PHYSICIANS;

Following is a list of Physicians in the order in which they settled in town.

Marion V. B. Clark, M B. M D. a native of Cuyahoga county O; graduated from the college of Pharmacy of Baldwin University, Ohio Feb 28th 1867 and in Medicine at the Cleveland Medical college, Ohio February 4th 1869; was Professor of Pharmacy four years in the former college and a member of the convention to revise the United States Pharmacopoeia of 1870; commenced the practice of medicine at this place Nov 1, 71—the first physician in the county.

Markus W. Wilcox. M. D.; a native of Genesee county New York; took his first course at the Eclectic school; Cincinnati Ohio and graduated at the Ohio Medical college in 1850; and took an addenda at the Chicago Medical college in 1864 commenced practice in this place in July 1873; he is the present Commissioner of Insanity for this county; and U S pension Surgeon, both positions having been previously held by Dr. Clark from 1873 to 1875.

W. M. Sammis, M. D., a native of Illinois; took his first course at the Kentucky School of Medicine and graduated at the Louisville Medical college early in 1875: was for some time thereafter in the Louisville city Hospital: settled here and commenced practice July 26th, 1875.

R M Cotton, M. D.: Ph.D., a native of Portage county Ohio: graduated in Technology with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and in Medicine at the University of Michigan 1875: settled here and commenced practice March 1st 1876.

THE RUSSIANS:

A colony of Germans from southern Russia, near the port of Odessa on the Black sea, came to Sutton and settled in the town and adjacent country, in the fall of 1873. The principal leaders of the colony were John Grosshans, Henry Griess and Henry Hoffman. The whole number of families is fifty-five. They bought, in the aggregate, 16,120 acres of land at an average cost of seven dollars per acre, making 112,840 dollars that was paid the B and M. R. company and to homesteaders for land. their property in Sutton cost them eighteen thousand dollars: their combined wealth in this county is five hundred thousand dollars. They are a sober, temperate people and belong to the German Reform church.

SOCIETIES:

The religious Societies in Sutton are the Methodist Episcopal church,—Rev. C L Smith, pastor. Congregational;—Rev. John Gray pastor: Christian—without a pastor. Baptist—without a pastor. Free Congregational—C M Turner president: F M Brown secretary: F M Davis Treasurer,

Sutton Scientific Association, for the advancement of Science and pursuit of technical knowledge—M V B Clark M D President, E H White Vice President, U H Malick, B S, Secretary, and H W Gray, Treasurer.

ORDERS.

A F and A M.—John C Merrill, W M, A K Marsh S W; and J E Bagley, J W. Lebanon Chapter A F and A M, U D, M J Hull, G H P, A K Marsh G S W, Geo VanDyne G J W.

I. O. O. F.—R G Merrill, N G., Joseph Grice, V G., D J Towslee, Sec. A O H—not yet chartered.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS,

The first celebration in the county since its organization was at Sutton, July 4th 1872. H W Gray president of the day, Rev A Burlingame Chaplain, A C Burlingame reader of the declaration: R G Brown delivered the oration, followed by Hon W H H Flick, of the House

of delegates of West Virginia. It will be long remembered as one of the best we ever had.

At the celebration July 4th 1873, it being a union celebration between Harvard and Sutton. E J Moger of Harvard was president of the day, Rev A Burlingame Chaplain, Miss Annie Foster reader of the declaration, Attorney General Roberts, orator, T Weed, marshal.

At the celebration July 4th, 1874, Dr. M W Wilcox was president of the day Rev A Burlingame, Chaplain, T Weed reader of the declaration. Hon John I Redick, of Omaha, orator, George Stewart, marshal.

July 4th 1875, H W Gray was president of the day, T Weed Chaplain. Mrs I N Clark reader of the declaration, orators were R G Brown, J E Bagley, G W Bemis and George Nuse, the latter in German. James Sheppard marshal.

The Centennial celebration July 4th., held at Sutton had for its officers, C M Turner, president of the day, Rev C L Smith, Chaplain, Dr W M Sammis, reader of the Declaration, Dr. M W Wilcox orator, followed by George Nuse in German, and N. Anderson in Swede; Dr Martin V. B Clark chairman, and reader Judge John R, Malby and Erastus H White, county and town historical committee.

FINE ARTS.

Teachers in organ and piano music were, Miss Phebe Dewstoe, Mrs G W Bemis and Mrs F A Pyle,

Band and instrumental music, Prof. F W Hohmann;

Amateur landscape painter D Cronin.

Plastic artist, James Stewart.

SUTTON POST-OFFICE

Luther French was the first Post-master, and was appointed in the summer of 1871; at this period the office was in French's dug out, and he was in the habit of carrying the mail matter in his coat pocket. Afterwards, as the mail receipts increased, he distributed the mail to the settlers from an 8x10 glass box, A, Burlingame, formerly an M E Clergy man; came in from Iowa and settled Aug. 18th 1871. He succeeded Mr. French as post-master January 1st, 1872, and has held the appointment continuously to the present time. His salary was increased from \$12 to \$400 per year July 1st, 1872, two years before a railroad station was built here. A money order office was established July 1st 1873; Post-office money order number one was issued July 7th. 1873 to Russel Merrill for \$10.50 in favor of Samuel Burns, a crockery dealer at Omaha: During the contest with the railroad company, the post-office department was a staunch friend of the town, The terms of the

contract for carrying the mail between the rail road company and the department obliged the company to deliver all mails, not only at but literally into the post office when the same was less than 80 rods from the station. To the credit of P. M. General Cresswell, be it said, he always exacted the fulfillment of this provision. Stopping the cars to leave the mail, allowed passengers to get on and off, which for convenience of traveling, made Sutton a station. But this would not serve the purpose of the company, and accordingly, trains were run by, fast enough to prevent passengers getting on or off, and the mail bag was thrown off, and the out-going mail was caught from the hands of the postmaster. On the morning of August 18th, Postmaster Burlingame refused to endanger his life any longer by holding the mail bag out for the swiftly passing train, and left it in the office—as was his right to do. About this time the mail agent threw out the mail bag into the ditch. From this time forward the attitude of the company was very hostile, and the war grew to be a bitter one. Our postmaster reported the behavior of the company to the department, and the government ordered the mail to be carried to and from Graton, at the company's expense. T. R. Linton, who in those days was the freighter to and from that point, took the contract, at \$100 a quarter, and continued for some time, until the company, tired of paying for the carrying from Graton, sought of the department the privilege of again delivering it in Sutton. The company accordingly built a crane nearly opposite Gray's lumber yard, upon which they expected to catch the out going mail bag as the train flew through the town; this was in the fall of 1872; shortly afterwards some of the boys sawed the crane down, which was the only unlawful act committed by the citizens during the contest.

In those sober days of struggle, there occurred some incidents of a laughable nature, that gave zest to the contest and served to smooth over its asperity and bitterness. One sifting, snowy morning the B & M Route agent was sure he espied the mail sack hanging on the crane for the first time; he accordingly lunged on the Sutton mail sack and grabbed what he supposed was the eastern mail; but it was so tightly fastened to the crane that he came near being jerked out of the car. The object proved to be a dead dog, which some one had hung to the crane for a joke.

The company then offered to stop at the water tank, as the tank near Harvard was dry; and they could take water and mail at the same time. All this

time the office was kept in the middle building in the woolen row opposite Gray's lumber yard and was over 80 rods from the tank. By this means the company succeeded in obliging the department to furnish a carrier.

In this manner the office was supplied with mail until the final solution of the difficulty by the establishment of a depot. The yearly amount of money orders issued at Sutton post office is \$33,800; amount paid out \$15,000; amount of stamps sold \$1,200; number of registered letters sent out yearly 500. whole number of orders issued to this date are \$430. yearly business of the office 56,830 dollars.

THE RAILROAD WAR.

The first rail laid on the town site of Sutton by the Burlington & Missouri River railroad company was put into its place on the 12th day of Aug. 1871. Not long after, Mr. Joseph Wilsey an attorney of Crete representing the railroad company, waited on Mr. French in his dug-out and induced him to sign a contract, deeding the right of way through town to the company, the consideration for which was a promised depot at Sutton. This deed was not recorded until after French sold to the Clark Bros., and was consequently invalid.

A freight car had been used here for a station house, and was known as 124; which number was painted on a bleached buffalo skull, hung on a stick and nailed to one end of the car.

December 15th or 16th, 1871, the company moved their station from this place to a new town they had laid out $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles east, called Graton, which consisted of four houses.

Originally the intention of the B & M company was to make a station here, the distance being about half way between Fairmount and Harvard and between Lincoln and Kearney, and the ready access to water in the valley of School Creek, and the friendly protection of the neighboring hills and the timber on the creek were appreciated by Col. Thomas Doane, chief engineer of the company. The cause of the long and disagreeable contest is now a matter of great interest.

The railroad company, with its untold landed wealth, brought every thing to bear on the struggling town that had started out so full of hope and good intentions. It instructed its officers to deny the existence of Sutton, even as a town, as well as a station. How bravely and well the people bore up—often heavy hearted, but never quite discouraged—under their trials, it will be for our

readers to conclude; as to who were in the right, and who were victors in the end, remains for you to decide for yourselves.

It has been claimed by the company that because Sutton tolerated saloons, and also the title of the Vroman claim being in dispute, were sufficient reasons for discarding it as a station.

The people were ever willing to give a reasonable proportion of their lands for a station. In due time the contest between Vroman and Maltby and Way was decided, and the title perfected in Maltby and Way.

NEGOTIATIONS:

About the 1st, of Jan. 1872, Mr. T. Weed, deputed by the citizens, was sent to Crete with a proposition to the railroad company from the land owners of the town, offering one half of the unsold portion of the Clark, Maltby and Way eighties, upon which the town was afterwards built. In addition, Maltby and Way offered twenty acres of the best of their land for depot grounds. Col. Doane wanted two thirds of the lots besides depot grounds. and negotiations failed.

Simultaneously with this movement, Mr. I. N. Clark waited on D. N. Smith, president of the town site company, an organization accessory in fact, though not in pretense, to the railroad company. This so called company, had charge of and manipulated the location of towns and stations. Mr. Clark remonstrated with Mr. Smith as to the action of the company in removing the station, but Mr. Smith would do nothing to relieve the situation.

Winter, cold and excessively snowy, had set in, and the settlers, strangers in a new country with entire dependence on the railroad company to transport fuel, and food, made the prospect gloomy indeed.

Stolid, cold, calculating—a perfect diplomatist—was this man, Smith; although acting under orders he was very courteous. He “never quite gave Sutton up,” and it was puzzling to know just what he meant, he had such perfect command of himself and his words.

The next movement for a depot was undertaken by Judge Maltby, who went to Boston at his own expense and interviewed the chief officers of the road. He found that they were, or claimed they were, entirely ignorant of the action of the town site company in relation to this place, and promised him they would investigate the whole trouble.

Later in the fall another proposition was made to the company by the land owners similar to the first, except that reservations were made for public parks.

Toward Christmas, Marthis & Robbins, dealers in Groceries at Grafton, indicated their desire to move to Sutton, with their building and goods.

In accord with the enterprising and liberal spirit, characteristic of the early men of the town, the Clark brothers donated them a lot and W. Cunning and G. W. Bemis took their teams, and with other public spirited citizens went up to Grafton, and moved the building and goods to Sutton, free of charge.

The resolute determination of the people to keep up the warfare at whatever cost, had then grown to be a settled fact. It was the all absorbing theme in the stores, on the streets and at the fire side; nothing else was scarcely thought of.

In those days of trial, and before the people had the luxury of a county paper, the Good Templars Lodge, then in full blast, issued occasionally a manuscript paper for amusement. In one of these papers there appeared a poem, written by G. W. Bemis, now an attorney; the poem is here given to show the burthen of thought. It was published by the *Daily State Journal*; a paper which uniformly stood by Sutton through its dark days:

GRAFTON TO SUTTON.

What a clanking of hammers and ringing of saws;
How they sound through the valleys and ring
in the draws;
Oh! Sutton is growing, in the midst of the fray,
With the city of Grafton only *four* miles away.

How the B. & M. engines shriek, whistle and
squal,
And send forth the order that Sutton must fall;
How they thunder and matter and groan night
and day,
With the city of Grafton only *three* miles away.

Then came Mr. Marthis, and thus he did say,
“I am tired of Grafton; if only I may,
I’ll come down to Sutton, without delay.”
Soon Grafton will be only *two* miles away.

Then started the wagons and horses and men,
The steeds, how they foamed, as a whip now
and then,
Came down on their sides, near the close of the
day,
With the city of Grafton only *one* mile away.

Then rushed down the hill the black and the gray,
Close followed the crowd to have sport on the way.
And the shout that went up at the end of the fray,
Said, “the city of Grafton is in Sutton to-day!”

In July 1872 L. N. Clark and Co., shipped a carload of heavy hardware, the first one into the county, over the St. Joe, and Denver city railroad to the station now known as Edgar, and teamed it to Sutton. This company being a rival line gave a low rate on freight, and it had a great influence in re-establishing the station at Sutton. Our merchants learning self reliance, were now shipping a large portion of their goods over this route, and by this means Chicago to day has lost thousands of dollars in trade that now goes to St. Joseph and will continue to go there.

Early in April 1873 the last effort was made to secure a station. L. N. and M. Clark, and H. W. Gray, at their own expense, made a journey to Lincoln and Plattsmouth to treat directly with the officers of the road, and lay the matter, for the last time, before the company. There had, however, been some changes in the officers of the company. Col. Doane was supplanted by C. F. Meise as superintendent, and D. N. Smith by Arthur Gorham as president of the town site company.

The new superintendent was quite bashful and seemed ill at ease. These men showed him by freight receipts of the St. Joe, and Denver railroad, that it would be easy to throw \$20,000 a year out of their hands and into the hands of their rivals. No argument had been so attentively listened to as this. The superintendent promised to lay the matter before Mr. Perkins, president of the road, and gave substantial encouragement that there would be a station at Sutton.

About the 20th of April 1873 president Gorham came up to see about the equalization of taxes, and repeated the provisional promise of the superintendent.

About the 1st of May 1873, Arthur Gorham and D. N. Smith came to Sutton to negotiate with the citizens and make, if possible, final arrangements for the establishment of a depot. The first days session was in the Court room at which time Messrs. Gorham and Smith were the principal speakers. The next days session was in the treasurer's room. Everything went swimmingly on until they came to the Clark eighty of which they wanted one half. That was refused, and one-third offered. To this D. N. Smith, after considerable parley, remarked that "there may be equities in this case that would allow these young men to get off with donating one-third," and called on Messrs. Weed, Gray, Tracy and others, who expressed themselves to the end that one-third was enough for Clark Bros. to give. The company exacted a donation of forty

acres from J. M. Gray; forty acres with consideration, from G. W. Bemis, which was refused, and accepted by W. Cunningham, also a donation of 40 acres each from Henry Beale and J. R. Maltby; one half of the Maltby and Way eighties. In addition, the citizens were to grade the switch, and vote for Harvard for the county seat.

The company afterwards paid the land owners in bulk \$5. per acre, as a consideration to make their title good. Instead of 20 acres as formerly offered, they accepted one hundred feet additional south of their right of way for depot grounds.

In the fall of 1873 the depot was built; since which time the company and our citizens have had intimate and pleasant relations.

Nowhere between the Blue and Platte rivers have the company such a pure and inexhaustible water supply as in the large well at the water tank in Sutton. The first station agent at Sutton was R. M. Grimes, now post-master at Kearney; L. S. Sage is the present agent. Wm. Irving the present superintendent of the company, furnishes the following statistics:

During 1873 Sutton station in freight received 2,483 tons; forwarded 1,154 tons. During 1875 freight received 4,239 tons; forwarded 5,255 tons. During 1875 from Sutton were shipped 120,681 pounds of merchandise, and 523 carloads of grain; the same year were received 1,389,716 lbs. of merchandise; 414 barrels of salt; 94 barrels of lime; 54 barrels of coal oil; 101 barrels of apples, 11 carloads of emigrants' movables; 26 cars of corn for seed, 209 cars of lumber and 183 cars of coal, etc.

CLARKS' SQUARE:

A tract of about twelve acres in the northern part of Clark's eighty has been laid off and platted as "Clark's Square" School creek makes a horse shoe bend in passing through this square, which is heavily timbered and deeply shaded with large rock elms.

CONCLUSION:

Under these spreading branches that so generously protect us, a mere handful of settlers gathered four years ago to celebrate our nations birth day. Here to day a vast concourse of people, numbered by thousands, greet the eye; and there are two other celebrations in the county.

Born in a fierce storm, like our common country, one hundred years ago to day, Sutton stands forth a bright example of what can be accomplished in four years by the resolute efforts and persevering industry of western Americans. In these days, the growth of cities

and states is measured by events, not years. And so to those who have been actors in the scenes here portrayed, the span of time seems full twenty years.

What the future great city Sutton shall be, when our forms shall have gone back to dust, let others tell. Its past has been told.

Established and builded by brave hearted men and women whose names here committed to the imperishable page, are so wedded to deeds that the historian can scarce separate them. May the memory of their struggles be kept ever green by posterity.

General History of Clay County.

The county of Clay in the state of Nebraska is twenty four miles square and composed of sixteen townships or precincts: commencing at the northeast corner and enumerating westward are named School Creek, Lincoln, Harvard, Leicester, Scott, Lynn, Lewis, Sutton, Sheridan, Marshall, Lone Tree, Glenville, Spring Rancho, Fairfield, Edgar and Logan.

It is watered on the northern border by the West Blue river and one of its tributaries, School Creek: On the south border by the Little Blue River and the Big and Little Sandys its tributaries. The two Sandys and School Creek rise in the western portions of the county. The Little Blue is a much more rapid stream than the West Blue and has numerous deposits in its banks of magnesian limestone.

The first white settler upon the territory now known as Clay county was John B. Weston, now Auditor of the State of Nebraska, who settled some time in 1857, and built a log house at Pawnee Rancho on sec 16, town 5, range 8 on the Little Blue River in Spring Rancho precinct.

Wm. H. James acting governor of Nebraska, on a petition of citizen voters issued a Proclamation, Sept. 11th, 1871 authorizing an election and designating the time and place of holding the same to locate the county seat, and to elect a board of county officers: accordingly the first election in this county was held on the 14th day of October 1871, at the house of Alexander Campbell on sec 6, town 7, range 6, near the present water tank on the B. & M. R. R. east of Harvard. At that election there were 89 votes polled; 56 of these were cast for Sutton, making it the county seat.

The commissioners elected at that election were:

A. K. Marsh, three years:

P. O. Norman, two years:

A. A. Corey, one year.

John R. Maltby, Probate Judge.

F. M. Brown, Clerk.

J. Hollingsworth, Treasurer.

P. T. Kearney, sheriff.

R. S. Fitzgerald, surveyor.

J. S. Schermerhorn, superintendent Public Instruction.

J. Steinmetz, Coroner.

The first session of the board of commissioners was on Nov. 4th. 1871; at that meeting the county was divided into three equal portions and designated as commissioner and voting precincts, and were named Harvard, Little Blue and School Creek.

The Commissioner precincts remain, but the voting precincts were increased to sixteen in the spring 1875

December 4th, 1871 R. G. Brown was appointed Treasurer to fill the vacancy caused by the failure of Hollingsworth to qualify. At the December 4th. session of the commissioner board G. W. Bemis was appointed assessor for School Creek, and resigned, J. C. Merrill was appointed to fill the vacancy. Charles Canfield for Harvard and John W. Langford for Little Blue Precincts.

The second board of county officers elected in the fall of 1873 were A. K. Marsh, Ezra Brown and Richard Bayly Commissioners,

E. P. Burnett, Probate Judge.

F. M. Brown, Clerk

F. M. Davis, Treasurer,

John B. Dinsmore, Sheriff.

J. T. Fleming, Surveyor,

D. W. Garver, Supt Instruction.

Dr. M. Clark, Coroner.

The third and present board was elected in the fall of 1875, and are

Richard Bayly
C. M. Turner } Commissioners

Ezra Brown,

E. P. Burnett, County Judge.

John B. Dinsmore, Clerk.

F. M. Davis, Treasurer.

O. P. Alexander, Sheriff.

T. W. Brookbank, Supt Instruction.

M. S. Edgington, Surveyor.

Dr. M. Clark, Coroner.

The Commissioner board is given as organized at the time of each county election proper. The term of office of one commissioner expiring each year.

To fill vacancy caused by expiration of term of office of A. A. Corey, M. L. Latham of Harvard was elected; on his resignation Mr Ezra Brown was appointed to fill the vacancy. A. Tracy was elected treasurer to fill the remaining vacancy of Hollingsworth's term at the general election following R. G. Brown's appointment, P. O. Norman resigned J. B. Dinsmore appointed to fill his place.

Markus W. Wilcox was elected delegate to the Constitutional convention of Nebraska, April 1875. At the general election in the same year the new constitution was adopted and under it the present board of officers were elected.

The county is traversed on every section line by wagon roads and has two railroads extending entirely across it.

The Burlington and Missouri River railroad in Nebraska, runs across its northern portion nearly east and west between towns 7 and 8.

The St. Joseph and Denver City railroad runs across its southern portion, entering the south east corner and running westerly bearing considerable north.

The B. & M. R R R in Neb, was built into the county in the spring of 1871 and completed in the following year. The St. Joe & Denver road was built through the county in the spring of 1872.

Names of stations on the B & M are Sutton and Harvard; On the St. Joe & Denver are Glenville, Fairfield and Edgar.

The population in the fall of 1871, when the county was organized, was estimated on the basis of the vote then taken at 356. The census taken by the assessors in the spring of 1876 was 4,797. The tax valuation for 1872 was \$999,322. Tax valuation for 1876 was \$1,341,952. Present rate of taxation 1876, including both state and county purposes is two per cent. Highest number of votes polled in the county was 1,210.

Ratio of increase in population is as 1 is to 13½; in other words we have increased 13½ times. There are fifteen truss bridges—iron and wooden in the county beside numerous culverts built by the county also. The bridges proper and their approaches measure over 1,000 feet; The present indebtedness of county is \$3,000; During the year just past there have been births 192; marriages 37; deaths from asthma 1, inflammation of the brain 1, child birth 1. Cholera infantum 3, convulsions 1, croup 2, diarrhoea 1, typhoid fever 3, lung disease 1, paralysis 2, puerperal fever 1, scarlatina 2, spinal disease 3, splenitis 1, teething 1, unknown 8, whooping cough 2, accident 1, drowning 1, in all 364.

The greater portion of the first settlers were U S soldiers during the war for the Union, and took a quarter section of land under the homestead act.

CHURCHES IN THE COUNTY,

METHODIST EPISCOPAL:

About the last of June, 1871, William Whitten, a theological student from Toulon Illinois preached at the house of P. Fitzgerald in the northeast part of the

county and organized a class. The Harvard class was organized in May 1872; that at Glenville May 1872. In April 1873 Rev. E. J. Willis was sent by the Conference to the Harvard circuit—which comprised all of Clay county. first quarterly conference of this church was held at Harvard June 21st 1873. Soon after this conference the southern portion of the county was organized into the Little Sandy circuit. Rev. Penny supply. There are now 14 appointments in the county with a membership of more than four hundred. The Sutton class was organized by Rev. A. J. Swarts in the autumn of 1874. This society is now building a brick church. Rev. C. L. Smith, Pastor; Harvard and Glenville are in the Hastings circuit. Rev. R. Pearson, Pastor. Fairfield and Edgar have each a parsonage. Rev. J. N. Norwall, pastor; Spring Rancho is supplied by Rev. Heisley of the Kearney Circuit, Rev. A. G. White, Presiding Elder,

CONGREGATIONAL:

The first services of this church were held in the grove at Sutton in July 1871 by Rev. Jones.

May 16th, 1872, Rev. O. W. Merrill, then superintendent of Home Missions for Nebraska, with eight members. The first regular continuous services were conducted by Rev. D. B. Perry, now President of Doane College, Crete, Neb. The Sutton Congregational society built the first church building in the county. The society numbers over 150 in the county. A union Sunday school was organized June 25th 1872,—the first in county. T. Weed, supt; The Congregational school now averages 50 pupils. This church have organizations at Spring Rancho, Fairfield and Harvard: For the north half Clay; Rev. John Gray pastor; south " " Rev. Thomas Pugh. " The Harvard society are building a church building and have over forty members.

CATHOLIC:

The first mass was celebrated by Father Kelley at Clay center in a tent June 15th 1871 with eight members, most of whom were railroad men, building the road bed of the B & M. Meetings were held south of Sutton at the house of M. McVey in Shepitan Precinct, this church numbers in the county over 300. Father Lechleitner. Pastor Crete Neb.

BAPTIST

The Baptist church of Harvard was organized on the 25th day of July 1872 at the residence of Charles H. Warren town 7 range 7 on section 30 by Rev. J. N. Webb Home Missionary from American Baptist Home Missionary society. At that time ten joined the church:

since that time there has been sixteen additions by letter and six dismissed by letter to join other churches and two dropped: The first regular preaching was by Rev I. D. Newell January 26th 1873 in the Masonic Hall in Harvard: Rev Newell held regular services at about the same time at the house of Harry Hull near Sutton where there was a church organization of 10 members: services discontinued at the latter place in that year and were afterwards held for a time in the court house at Sutton. He preached most of the time to the Harvard society until Feb 2nd 1876. when regular services were discontinued

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The first sermon at Sutton was preached Dec. 30th 1875 by Elder J. M. Yearnshaw of Lincoln, three members being in attendance. The first sermon at Marshall was on the 3d day of Jan. 1876. Meetings continued until the 11th, Jan. 9, a Sunday school and church was organized, the result of Elder Yearnshaw's labors: The first sermon preach at Fairfield was by Elder Newcomb Feb 13th. 1876. Members present were only three. April 5th 1876 a series of meetings were commenced by Elder R. C. Barrow state evangelist of Neb. A church of 26 members was organized at Sutton on the 16th. The meeting closing on the 19th. At the present time the church at Sutton numbers 30. Total number of churches in the county 4. Total number of members 125. The first and only Christian Sunday school in the county was organized Sept. 14th 1874, with four scholars by Mrs. P. A. Halleck at her residence in Sutton; at the expiration of nine months the school numbered 35 when the place of meeting was changed to the Court House and continued at that place until the county commissioners closed the Court House to all church organizations.

FREE-MASONS.

A preliminary meeting of the Masonic Fraternity was held in the hall of what is now known as the Clark House, but not finding a suitable room in town no action was taken to organize a lodge. Nothing more was done toward an organization until late in the fall of 1875. Meetings were held to arrange matters of organization at the Court house. The first regular communication of this lodge was U. D. at Melvin's hall Dec. 23rd., 1875. Evolving Star Lodge A. F. & A. M., U. D. was the name adopted. The officers at that time were J. Arnot, W. M., M. W. Wilcox, S. W., J. C. Merrill, J. W. June 28th. 1874 the lodge received a charter from the Grand Lodge of Nebraska A. F. & A. M. The charter members were R. L. Garr, J. B. Dms

more, A. K. Marsh, C. L. Henny, F. M. Brown, J. C. Merrill, M. W. Wilcox, C. M. Turner, James Arnot, M. J. Hull, Wm. D. Young, M. V. B. Clark, J. M. Gray, J. J. Melvin, I. N. Clark.

In June 1874 the lodge moved from Melvin's hall to their present hall over I. N. Clark & Co's store. Present number 40. At the session of the Grand Lodge of the state in June 1876 M. W. Wilcox was appointed Grand Orator.

LEBANON CHAPTER, U. D.

The first regular communication of the chapter took place at the Hall of A. F. & A. M. Dec. 23d 1875.

M. J. Hull, G. H. P.

A. K. Marsh, G. S. W.

Geo VanDuyne, G. J. W.

Chapter numbers 16,

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

Sutton Lodge number 53 Independent order of Odd Fellows, was instituted at Grosshans Hall in Sutton on the evening of Nov. 15th 1874 by the Grand Master, Ira A. Gallup, assisted by Bros. from Crete, York and Fairmont lodges Charter members were W. A. Way, Geo. Stewart, J. F. Evans, I. B. Tyrrell, E. P. Church and George Krieger, All fifth degree members. Evans and Church past grands. W. A. Way was elected N. G., I. B. Tyrrell V. G. Geo. Stewart, Sec. and George Krieger, Treas.

Following the installation of officers by the Grand Master, petitions from R. G. Merrill, S. B. Montgomery, W. J. Keller, S. Carney and J. Grice to join by initiation; and D. J. Towslee as an Ancient Odd Fellow, all of whom—a dispensation permitting—were elected, initiated and made members the same evening, and Sutton lodge started on its mission of 'friendship, love and truth' with twelve member. It now—June 24th 1876—has a membership of 25, and by next Centennial we expect them to reach the hundreds, not enumerating the swarms that may have left the parent lodge. The Grand Master assigned Clay and Hamilton counties as district number 28, appointing E. P. Church district deputy. There is no other lodge in the county and but one other, Centennial lodge, in the district instituted June 8th. at Hamilton county, Total amount of moneys paid into treasury of Sutton Lodge by the members \$595 50
Total paid for sick benefits \$12.
Cash on hand gen. fund \$75.
Widow and orphans fund \$ 6.
Value of Lodge property \$316.
Debts None.

A. O. H.

A lodge of the Ancient order of Hibernians was instituted Jan. 15th 1874 at Sutton. The first one in the state, It has 24 members.

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

The first lodge of Patrons of Husbandry was formed at Lone Tree school house September 20th, 1873: the number of members now in the county is about 500; the order in other states rendered substantial aid to their destitute brethren in this county and State in distributing great quantities of garden seeds, seed wheat and corn, in the spring of 1875:

GOOD TEMPLARS:

Harvard Lodge of Good Templars was organized about the 20th. of February, 1873 by G. W. C. T. J. A. Fairbanks E. B. Baldwin was elected W. C. T. and E. P. Burnett W. S. and is still kept up.

The Lodge at Edgar was organized April 8th. 1876 by P. G. W. C. T., J. D. McCasland; A. S. Robinson W. C. T. and A. B. Canfield W. S. These lodges are reported in a flourishing condition by T. A. Barbour deputy G. W. C. T. for 15th district—Clay and Adams counties.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY:

The Clay County Agricultural Society was organized April 15th, 1872; a fair has been held each year since at Sutton:

SCHOOLS:

December 14th 1871, in the forenoon. the south east quarter of School creek precinct was organized into school district number one and A. A. Corey, A. K. Marsh and R. S. Fitzgerald were elected to serve as moderator, director treasurer respectively;

School district number two in which is the town of Sutton was organized in the afternoon of Dec 14th. 1871, only a few hours behind district number one. Officers elected were Charles Moon, moderator, Thurlow Weed, treasurer and Wils Cunning, director.

During the first two years following the date of the first district organization, there had been sixty-two districts organized in most of which there had been substantial frame houses built, at the date of the first school report April 1874 there were 996 scholars in the county between five and twenty-one years of age—the school age in this state.

The three earliest teachers in the county were W. L. Weed district number two, Thomas M. Gregory district number five and Laura M. Baccroft district number six; Mr Gregory taught the first school commencing about the first of Dec 1871 before the the district was organized,

The total amount expended for school purposes during the past three years was \$63,324

Valuation of school property at present time \$96,743

The average wages paid male teachers in 1874 was per month 32

Female teachers average 22

Present number of pupils in the county 1,570

Material in relation to the article on the schools was furnished by Thomas W. Brookbank superintendent public Instruction.

THE GREAT SNOW STORM:

Sunday night April 13; 1873 there commenced a storm that will be long remembered by the early settlers of Clay county. It had been raining through the day and just before dark the wind veered from south-west around to north west—the rain increasing; Long before light Monday morning the rain changed to sleet, and at day break: the morning still dark the air was filled with what seemed like solid snow, so wet was it and carried so swift by the gale that it was almost impossible to move against it: it would wet a person through like rain in a few moments. All day Monday and Monday night Tuesday and Tuesday night it snowed and blowed increasing all the time until Wednesday morning. Many banks of snow were as high as the houses and many of the draws, creeks and rivers were level full of snow. Driven before the gale almost the entire live stock of the county perished in snow: In School Creek precinct Mrs. Kiley and child were trying to go a few rods to a neighbors: got lost, chilled and froze to death in the wet snow: Before starting out she remarked that she would die with her child if she could not get through with it alive; They were both found dead, after the storm:

GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE;

In July 1874 swarms of grasshopper came from the northeast in such countless numbers as to make the sunlight dim. So swiftly did they destroy the crops, that a forty or an eighty acre corn field would not last them more than two hours. The rank growing corn would literally bend over to ground by the weight of grasshoppers. Potatoes, garden vegetables and crops of all kinds excepting wheat and barley already harvested, sugar cane and broom corn were swept out of existence in every part of the county in the short space of two days. Not a bushel of corn was raised in the county. The year before settlers burned corn, it being only fifteen cents a bushel. The grasshopper year it was shipped from Iowa and brought a dollar a bushel. The people had nothing but wheat and barley to eat and feed their stock. When winter set in many of the settlers had no money, no fuel and scarcely anything to eat. Want and star-

vation was upon them, when, by the timely aid of the eastern states the settlers were rescued from actual death by starvation. In the fall of 1874 a committee to procure and distribute aid was formed at Sutton consisting of C. M. Turner chairman and distributing agent, with F. W. Hehmann, R. G. Merrill, Geo. Stewart and J. Steinmetz,

Mr. Turner went to Omaha at his own expense and secured from the state aid society the power to constitute Sutton an aid supply depot. Parts of Fillmore, York and Hamilton counties were included in this aid district. There was distributed from Sutton depot four carloads of coal, four carloads of miscellaneous supplies, including flour, meal, bacon, dried apples, sugar, etc. Lieut. Brown of the fourth U. S. Infnt. from the Post of Omaha assisted by Mr. Turner distributed large lot of army clothing to the worst needy.

The committee to procure and distribute aid was formed at Harvard before that at Sutton. Harvard was a distributing point for Edgar, also for Hamilton county and distributed large quantities of supplies.

An aid society was formed at Edgar which drew its supplies from Harvard, W. A. Gunn, President and M. J. Hull, Vice-President and did the principal part of the work. There were distributed about three cars of coal, one car load miscellaneous supplies besides one-half carload U. S. army clothing.

CELEBRATIONS:

Eleven years ago to day, part of the second and sixth Michigan cavalry camped between Spring and Pawnee Ranches, in this county, on their return from Salt Lake. Our townsman F. M. Davis county treasurer, was in the second cavalry and took part in the celebration. They had speeches, etc. by "the boys," and two gallons of whiskey with which to "cheer up comrades and be gay."

SCHOOL CREEK.

In the early summer of 1871 Peter O. Norman and his brother, natives of Sweden settled and built a dug-out on the creek and were the first white settlers in this precinct. In October 1871 John Kennedy came from Ohio and settled and built his dugout on section 2, town 8, range 5 in the north part of the town, A. A. Corey settled on the creek near the Fillmore county line, early in 1871 and built a log house. At that time the creek both ways was heavily timbered. About the same time Albert K. Marsh

settled and built a log house on the creek below the Normans. In the same spring J. Steinmetz and the Bultzer boys settled on the prairie on section 34 F. M. Brown, Oas. W. Brown, Geo. Brown and R. G. Brown came April tenth and took up a section of land excepting one eighty and are among the early settlers in School creek. W. Cuning and wife settled on the northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 34. May fourth 1871, spending four weeks under a wagon bed before building his dug-out. Mrs. Cuning was one of the earliest white married women who came into the town. R. L. Garr and family settled the same year. W. E. Benis settled in September 1871. The Normans' built a frame house in 1871 out of elm boards which they sawed out with an old fashioned whip saw.

LINCOLN:

The Conants, Wm and his brother T. Van Tress came in and settled May first 1871 and were the first settlers in the precinct. They built sod houses. W. T. McNight came in and settled August 14th 1871.

Mrs Ada Hoisington taught the first school in the spring of 1872. There are now two school houses in the precinct, costing \$800 apiece and are about an average in size and cost of country school houses in the county.

May 10th 1875 D. A. Smith shot and killed Orin Conant. The dispute arose about a clam. Smith was afterwards indicted for Manslaughter but on a final trial was discharged.

HARVARD:

Harvard is the second in size of towns of the county. The first business house in the town was established by E. H. Birdsall in February 1872. The town has a weekly newspaper, the "Harvard Advocate," a high school building and is a go ahead place in every respect. An extended history will be presented at the celebration that takes place there to day. Also a sketch of Fairfield and Glenview on the St. Joe R. R.

LYNN:

W. H. Chadwick, J. D. Moore came together and located on section 12. town 7, range 7, May 1871. L. J. Starbuck and B. F. Hocket came and settled on section two at the same time. These were the first settlers in this precinct. They all built sod houses. Hocket building his first, M. L. Latham and C. D. Moore came soon after. Mr. Latham was the first commissioner from the Harvard precinct, at that time there were plenty of antelope on the prairie,

LEWIS.

H. D. Peterson a native of Sweden settled in this precinct in the spring of 1870. Louis Peterson and Jonas Johnson of the same nationality came in soon after. John S. Lewis, of Virginia, after whom this precinct was named, settled April 20 1872.

The first election in the precinct was for Member of Constitutional convention in May 1875, all of the precincts in the county at this time adopted names, it being the first election held after the county was divided into sixteen precincts. Lewis then polled 39 and now polls 60 votes; I. C. Christianson, a Dane was the first of that nationality in the precinct which was Nov. first 1873 the Danes number about sixteen in the county.

SUTTON.

Luther French native of Ohio settled permanently on the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of N W $\frac{1}{4}$ section 2, town 7, range 5 in 1870 and was the first white settler in the precinct. Soon after, he built a dug-out, logging it up on the inside, covering the roof with bark and shingling it with dirt. His first neighborly call was soon after the house was finished by Captain Charley White, of Indian fame, and Miss Nellie Henderson, who came on horse back 8 miles from the West Blre and chased down and caught an antelope on the way. Mr. French was the first P. M. in Sutton and the second in the county. He laid his homestead out as the town of Sutton Sept. 23d and sold it Nov. 1st 1871 to I. N. and M. Clark who came from Ill. and Ohio respectively. H. W. Gray and son with G. W. Bemis, came from Iowa May 4th, 1871 and settled on section two.

That same spring William and Henry Smith, the Brownells and Hollingworths, and JS Schermerhorn, James Vroman and the Eubergs came soon after Mr. F.

May 10, 1871 Henry Evans and wife came in and settled; Mrs. Evans was the first married woman in the precinct. In the summer of 1871 J R Malby and W A Way came from Crete and after contesting the title right of James C Vroman who came the year before, extinguishing the title to the two eighties lying directly south of the original town, they laid it out in 1872 as the first addition to the town of Sutton.

Situated on three eighties at the north-west part of section two is the town of Sutton, the county seat, the largest town in the county.

The Chandlers, J. Longstreth, A. S. Twitchel, Charles Moon, John D. McMillan and D. L. Herrick were among the early settlers.

SHERIDAN.

In Feb 1872 John Yates made the first settlement and built a frame house. He was followed by Dennis Laybanc, Richard Hullard, R. M. Mariner a carpenter and Patrick Nagle a railroad man, and T R Elder; all these men were on their claims six weeks after Yates' settlement; a school district was organized in Sept, 1872; a house was erected in Dec 1872. Joseph Tout, now American Express agent at Sutton, taught the first school with 16 scholars.

In Feb 1873 a Methodist Episcopal church was organized. Rev Penny, pastor with a membership of 15; a union Sunday school was organized in June 1873 with 25 scholars. The superintendents have been in the order in which they served J M Ramsey, S B Montgomery, Daniel Michael and John Yates. The first birth was Johnnie Nagle son of Mr and Mrs P Nagle; Mrs Nagle was the first woman in the precinct, the first death was an infant child of Daniel Michael- there is a debating club in the precinct; Dilworth P. O. is in this town.

SPRING RANCHE.

Hon J B Weston present state auditor was the first settler in Clay county and Spring Ranche. He came in sometime in 1857 and built a log house at Pawnee Ranche on section 16, town 5, range 8. He was succeeded by Fred and George Roper, who held it until 1864, when they were driven off by the Indians, two of George Roper's daughters were captured by the Indians and held as captives until 1872 or 73; One Mr Metcalf, brother-in-law of Jas, Bainter, was the first to settle and build at Spring Ranche. He was succeeded in the spring of 1862 by James Bainter who was the first permanent settler in the county. He took the first homestead in the county in 1862 on section 8, town 5, range 8, and ran the ranche on the Overland Star route until June 1864.

Mr Bainter had a Store and about \$5000 worth of goods, besides live stock, produce, etc,

A Pawnee Indian first brought him the news that the Sioux were coming and had attacked the other ranche above. He sent his family to Pawnee Ranche, about a mile east, then kept by the Ropers, and mounting a fast horse, rode up the river to meet them. He found them about nine miles up the river; after shooting at them at long range, he turned and ran his horse back, loosed his stock and went to Pawnee Ranche. He soon saw the smoke of his store, house and stable and other improvements: shortly afterward Pawnee Ranche was attack-

ed by from 150 to 200 Sioux. There were with him in the ranche (a sod building with pallisades around it) three other men besides several women and children. They fought for three days, keeping the Indians at bay, and were materially assisted by Mrs. Bainter and the other women, who showed great bravery in assisting to watch the enemy and in loading guns for the men as fast as they were discharged. At last Mr. Bainter succeeded in killing the Sioux chief, when they withdrew from that immediate vicinity. A large number of Pawnee Indians came up soon after who were friendly, especially toward Bainter, and with their assistance the Sioux were driven off for that time.

The Sioux soon after attacked all the ranches along the Little Blue and Bainter and all the settlers were driven off, a large number of settlers, and nearly all of the stage drivers, were killed. Also one wagon train of nearly sixty persons were slaughtered.

From 1862 to 1869 there were no settlements along the Little Blue above Meridian, in Jefferson County, and no whites except a few adventurous hunters at Liberty Farm.

A Portable, circular steam saw mill was brought into the county by J. Stover and Co. in the fall of 1871 and was the first mill in the county and remained till the fall of 1872. It was operated near the old Spring Ranche, after which this precinct was named.

Peck & Meston, of Harvard, submitted a proposition to build a grist mill at Spring Ranche in consideration of \$7000 precinct bonds, to be voted under the Internal improvement act of the state legislature. It was submitted to the people August 3rd 1873, and carried. Afterwards the bonds were adjudged by the United States courts to be illegal, a mill not being within the meaning of the act under which they were voted and issued. The mill was built 28 by 40 feet, three stories high, with three run of stones, and commenced operation in August 1874. It is situated on the Little Blue river, on nw $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 17, town 5, range 8 west: June 1st 1876 it passed into the hands of Alex. Meston one of the partners, and is being successfully operated by him.

LOGAN

Albert Curtis was the first settler in this precinct, and came in March 7th 1871. Following him came John Yandle, Riley Thurber, May, 1871. Wright Stacy, E. M. Isbam, Nathan Tucker. A Christison, the Pascal brothers, Fletcher. Page.—so rapidly did this precinct settle up that all these men had settled, built

and commenced cultivating the land before June 1st the same year. J. B. Dinsmore, now county clerk, settled in this precinct May 28th, 1871. In July came Ashley, and Woodhead. M. J. Hull settled here November 1st, 1871.

August 3d '71, the first school district in the precinct was organized as district number 21, with J. B. Dinsmore director, A. S. Hatdy moderator and A. N. Walworth Treasurer. The first school house was partly dug out and partly sod built by a "bee" everybody turning out to help. It was heated by a miserable old sheet iron stove. The first teacher there was Josephine Reed, at \$25 per month. District 24 was organized ten days thereafter: the first school house was built in this district. The Big Sandy Grange was organized in this precinct in the spring of 1873, J. K. Sanborn, Secretary.

MARSHALL.

In July 1872, Flavius Northrup came from Buffalo county, Wisconsin, and settled in Marshall, and was the first settler in the precinct. He brought with him about seventy five sheep, the first ones brought into the county for permanent rearage. When he first came, the wolves troubled the flock considerably, and in the great snow storm of the following spring, many of them perished; but the flock afterwards increased, and and sheep raising here is counted a success.

In September, 1872, W. S. Randall and his brothers Addison and Warner, came in from Washington county, Iowa, and settled upon sections 28 and 30, and have since erected comfortable frame houses.

W. S. Randall was a candidate for member of the constitutional convention of this state, from Clay county in April 1875. He was put in nomination by a number of citizens, without reticence to party, and was barely defeated by Dr. M. W. Wilcox. Mr. Randall has been County Deputy of the Patrons of Husbandry.

Wm. Towl and J. Prawl came in from Missouri and settled in Oct, 1872; This is the Centre precinct in the county and has a post office at Marshall Centre.

James Urquhart, Nicholas Nagle, Thos. Reed, Swingle, and Schwab, were among the early settlers.

LEICESTER.

Leicester precinct is situated in the northwest corner of the county and is watered by branches of the West Blue river. Among the first settlers were Wm. Woolman, A. Woolman, Joseph Rowe and Stephen Brown, who came in the winter of 1871.

Miss Truelove Tibbles, an adopted daughter of Rev. Wm. Woolman, was drowned accidentally in April 1876 while attempting to cross one of the creeks in this precinct. The Coroner's inquest in this case was the third in the county and the first one under Dr. Clark, the present Coroner.

SCOTT

G. W. Briggs, and George McIntire were among the first settlers in this precinct. It is situated on the west boundary of the county directly south of Leicester. The B & M railway passes through the northern portion and the St. Joe & Denver railroad cuts across a very small part of the southwest corner of the precinct.

LONE TREE.

Lone Tree precinct is east of Scott and was first settled by John P. Scott in 1871, who was for some time the only settler between Spring Rauche and School Creek. He settled near the "Lone Tree" from which the precinct received its name. He was postmaster of White Elm postoffice in this precinct until the winter of 1872 and 1873 when the office was moved to Fairfield. Charles Osborn was among the early settlers. The St. Joe & Denver railroad crosses a considerable portion of the southwest part of this precinct.

GLENVILLE.

Glenville precinct was first settled by Daniel Fitch, a frontier trapper, in 1871. Later by J. W. Small and Leroy Winters. The St. Joe. & Denver railroad passes northwest through this precinct. The town of Glenville is in this precinct, and consists of a railroad depot and station house, two stores, a school house and postoffice. Bennett Cox is postmaster and merchant and Benjamin Holbrook keeps the other store.

FAIRFIELD

The settlement of this precinct commenced at Liberty Farm Ranche at the mouth of Liberty creek on the Little Blue. The first settler in the precinct was at the Ranche and was agent of Wells, Fargo and Co.'s Pony Express. It was a post on their route from Atchison Kansas across the continent to Pikes Peak and San Francisco California. These posts were also the depots of the U. S. overland mail service. So troublesome were the war like Sioux in those days that the Pony Express riders were when carrying on the business of the company usually chased by them from one post to another; their custom was to ride always at full gallop through this part of the country, then considered a dangerous part of the route. The Indians re-

peatedly broke up the route and at times it was entirely abandoned to them. Some time in 1858. James. H. Lemon kept the ranche and was succeeded by Benjamin Royce, who, with his brother John, natives of Ogle county, Ill., settled in the latter part of 1867. Ben. was at that time a state militia man, in the United State service, and stationed at the military post at Kiowa, on the Blue, in Thayer county. He was in the numerous battles between the Sioux and the settlers.

Soon after he took his claim the Indians broke up the entire settlement along the Blue, stealing the stock, burning the ranches and driving the settlers down the river to Kiowa.

In the fall of 1868 and spring of 1869 the Indians were driven back, and practically gave up their hold on the country, and from this time forward settlements took place with astonishing rapidity.

T. A. Shaw, John R. Lawhead, Cyrus Griffith, John K. Thompson and Reuben Peachy were among the early settlers; Mr. Peachy built and stocked a store sometime in 1870. He was the first postmaster appointed in this county after the re-establishment of the mail routes. The mail was brought from Hebron via Kiowa, Liberty Farm and Spring Ranche to the stockade at Red Cloud on the Republican river.

Early in 1870. Richard Bayly, a work-er in metals and one of the present Commissioners of Clay county, settled on his farm at the mouth of Buffalo Creek and operated a blacksmith shop. H. J. Higgins settled soon after. Up to this time the settlements had been confined to the river and its tributaries, but in the fall of 1871 the table lands on either side of the Little Blue began to be occupied.

Alfred Mills built a water saw mill on the river near the old Liberty Farm Ranche in the year 1871. In 1872 a small run of stone was put in to grind feed. Among the early settlers, coming in 1872 are A.S. Wilts and his son in law W. H. Frey, both jusices of the Peace.

EDGAR

In november 1871, J. K. Sanborn made the first settlement in this precinct and built a log house. A. F. and Jacob Ritterbush came in the spring of 1872 and settled on lands adjoining the town site of Edgar. Mr. Carr came in soon after. Henry Gipe preempted the land upon which Edgar now stands. The first store in what is now Edgar was started by Ritterbush & Graham, in a log house S. T. Caldwell started the second store and Ritterbush & Mills the third. The first postoffice in that part of the County was established at Edgar; A. F. Ritterbush was the first postmaster; W. A. Gunn the second, and W. J. Waite the

third and present postmaster. Situated in this precinct on the St. Joe. & Denver City Railroad is the flourishing town of Edgar, with a weekly newspaper: it is the third town in size in the county.

David D. Jones and family, from Columbus Ohio, settled here June 7th 1872.

The Town of Fairfield.

Some time in 1871, Maximilian Reed took up the north east $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 4 town 5, range 7. This claim he sold to A. B. Smith, H. J. Higgins, R. Bayly, Cornelius Durn and others—twenty in all—and they projected a town upon it. Smith in 1872, and John Epley in 1873, opened stores on the site, and there was a blacksmith shop started. Soon after selling, Reed shot and killed himself accidentally.

In June 1872, the St Joe, and D. C. railroad company built a depot on land adjoining on the east of the little town started by the citizens. Near and around the depot the town site company of that road projected a town and invited the owners and business men of the old town to come over. The new town site being on railroad land, and they not being able to perfect the title to the same until a foreclosure suit against all the lands of that company was settled, the old town refused to move, even in the face of a threat from the company to remove their depot from the vicinity. However, in the summer of 1873 the company succeeded in perfecting their title; the new site was surveyed, and the citizens went over and established the town there.

David P. Jayne started a lumber yard in the fall of 1872 near the depot.

A. B. Smith and John Epley moved their stores over to their present location when the present town was established.

In the fall of 1873 Chandler, Akins & Co. started the carpenter and builders business.

Corrad & Hopper started a drug store sometime in 1874.

In the summer of 1874, J. C. Clarke & Co. started the lumber yard now operated by J. C. Clarke.

In 1875, C. F. Shedd opened a lumber yard.

J. W. Small, from Red Oak, Iowa, one of the early settlers at Glenville, came in and engaged in the real estate business and the sale of the town site property, in the fall of 1874. He is a notary public, having been appointed July 17th, 1874.

Laisy, Fryer & Bayly opened a blacksmithing and wagon business in the fall of 1875.

The firm of Smith & Spencer divided their stock in the spring of 1875, and each started for himself.

J. E. Hopper & Co. started in the general assortment trade in Sept. 1875. Hopper sold out to the "Co.," which was J. W. Small, who operated it until April, 1876, when he sold back to Mr. Hopper and went into the agricultural implement business.

John McDonald, a blacksmith, opened a shop in the spring of 1874.

H. J. Higgins started the first meat shop, and afterward sold to the Bissels, who ran away. The business is now carried on by Hayes & Gerrard.

The postoffice now at Fairfield was originally at White Elm, in Lone Tree, from which place it was removed early in the winter of '72 and '73. Leander Brewer, a U. S. pensioner, was the first and is the present postmaster. The office was kept in the store of J. E. Hopper and Co.

The town is supplied with a handsome and commodious public school house, built in the summer of 1873.

A hotel is kept in the railroad section house in town.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

A Congregational church was organized in the spring of 1872, by Rev. J. Jones, with 11 members. The membership at present numbers about 30. Rev. Thos. Pugh is the present pastor.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

A Methodist Episcopal church was organized in the fall of 1873 by Rev. Bennett, with about 12 members. It now numbers about 30.

A society to protect settlers from the depredations of horse thieves, whose haunts still seem to be secure in western Nebraska and Kansas, has its headquarters at Fairfield, P. G. Hayes, president.

Population of the town is about 150.

The Town of Harvard.

E. J. Stone, George Vangilder, Eli Mosier and Newman Brass settled upon and pre-empted section 34, town 8, range 7, July 13th 1871, taking one quarter each, and building frame residences thereon. After perfecting their title, they sold the whole section to the Eastern Land Association, commonly known as the B. and M. R. R. town site company, in February 1872, and the town site of Harvard was laid out on the same in the following spring by the company.

F. M. Davis moved in from Lincoln precinct July 16th 1871 and opened a boarding house in Mosier's and Vangilder's buildings.

E. F. Birdsall came in from Lincoln and started the first store in March, 1872.

The Burlington & Missouri River railroad was completed to this place in September 1871, and a depot was built in December of the same year.

L. J. Keeney, M. Mann and — Decker each started a store early in the spring of 1872. Peck and Meston started the first lumber yard, in March 1872.

Cheaney and Farmer started the first livery stable in January '72. Cheaney soon after went west, and Farmer quit the business, and turned his attention toward law; the business is now carried on by Risley and Moore.

E. J. Stone was the first postmaster, being appointed in January '72; he resigned in the following spring and M. Estes was appointed and has held the office ever since.

A meat market was started in April '72 by the Neuth Brothers.

John T. Fleming came in May '72 and bought out Decker and started a drug store, the first in the town; he soon after closed out his stock, and has since been practicing dentistry.

C. K. Morrill started the second drug store in the fall of '72, adding books; he also has charge of the books of the Clay county branch of the American Bible Society.

C. D. Moore moved his stock of drugs, dry goods and groceries from Orville, in Hamilton county, in December '72, and commenced business in Harvard, which he still continues.

O. M. Soule settled in town in the spring of '73 and opened a boarding house, and is still in the business.

Lewis Stein opened a general stock of goods in town in the spring of '73.

T. H. Glover moved his store in from Aurora, Hamilton county, in the fall of 1875 and began trade here with a general assortment of goods.

Lyons Bros began trade here in spring of 1876, in clothing and dry goods.

P. A. Colvard came from Sutton in January '76 and began the sale of agricultural implements.

John D. Bain, from Lincoln, settled here and engaged in the lumber trade in 1873.

W. H. Hammond, hardware. M. D. Kellogg, groceries. Mrs. G. W. Howard, milliner. T. J. Dowd, jeweller. W. E. Welton, blacksmith and A. Davidson, billiards, are among the present business men of Harvard.

LAWYERS,

E. P. Burnett was the first lawyer to settle in the town, coming in the fall of 1872. He was soon after appointed a notary public. In the fall of 1873 he was elected Probate Judge of the county and

in 1875 was elected to the office of County Judge under the new constitution.

W. A. Farmer was admitted to the bar May 23d, 1874, and commenced the practice of law at Harvard in connection with John D. Haves, Esq. of Grand Island, Neb. He was also B. & M. ag't for the sale of town lots for some time.

MECHANICS,

Ezra Brown settled in July 1871 and commenced the business of plastering; he has been twice elected to office of County Commissioner and is a member of the present board. He is also a justice of the peace.

T. A. Barbour, carpenter and cabinet maker, settled in July 1872. He is a notary public, and is also associated with E. P. Burnett in the insurance business. He is district deputy for Clay and Adams counties, of the order of Good Templars.

SCHOOLS

Mrs. C. K. Morrill taught the first public school, in the winter of '72 and '73 at her residence in town. The next term was taught in the new school house by E. P. Burnett in the summer of 1873.

The new public school building was completed in the spring of 1873, at a cost of \$4,000. It is a two story frame with a cupola, and is well furnished with school furniture and apparatus.

HOTELS.

Stone & Dimick built the 'Howard House' and commenced the hotel business in June '72. It is now conducted by J. M. Jacobson under the name of the 'Commercial Hotel.'

The 'Nebraska House' was built in '73 by Jacob Ghering, who still conducts it.

NEWSPAPERS,

The *Harvard Champion* was the first paper published in the town and county, and was started in the summer of 1872 and continued weekly for about a year, when the proprietor, Julius Eaton, suspended its publication and moved the press away. It was a 7 column folio.

The *Harvard Advocate* was established by W. A. Connett in the spring of 1874 as a 7 column folio, patent inside; it is printed all at home at present.

SOCIETIES.

There are three church societies in the town, the Congregational, Methodist Episcopal and Baptist; services are held at present in the public school building.

The Independent Order of Good Templars is represented by a flourishing lodge.

Harvard was incorporated as a town in 1873 and has a population at present of about 250.

Harvard lodge of Free Masons, No. 44, had an informal meeting at the homestead house of F M Davis northeast of town, in December 1872 at which were present seven members of the order; The Lodge worked U. D., occupying their present hall in town, until July 24th 1873, when it was constituted, and was the first lodge in the county. The first officers were A J McPeak W M, F M Davis S W, Ezra Brown J W, Samuel Sloat Treas., and Warren C Massev Secretary. In December '74 F M Davis was elected W M, Present officers are Ezra Brown W M; W J Turner S W; S W Harney J W; Geo W Howard Sec Louis Stein treasurer; Present strength 40;

The Town of Edgar.

Edgar is located on the south west quarter of section 26, town 5, range 6, west, being about one mile from the south line and 8 and one half miles from the east line of the county

The town was laid out and the plat recorded April 14th 1873.

The first store was started by Ritterbush & Graham, June 1st 1872, and was kept in a log building just north of the present town site.

About June first 1872 the St. Joe & Denver railroad depot and section house was built in the town.

J. D. Beck put in a blacksmith shop about July first, 1872.

S. T. Caldwell & Co. settled early and deal in general merchandise.

Tidball Fuller deal in lumber.

Schnuyler & Barnes conduct the Edgar mills.

Dr. Schenk is the physician and surgeon.

C. F. Shedd & Co. built an elevator in '73 and was the first firm engaged in the grain business in Edgar.

Glazier Bro's commenced business in the Spring of 1874, first as J. G. Glazier and then as Glazier Bro's, they building the storeroom they now occupy.

T. A. Hendricks built a drug store in 1873 and entered into business with A. H. Curtis under the name of Hendricks & Co.

Cyrus Stayner located here in 1872, building a furniture store on the site now occupied by his block. Mr. Stayner also purchased the N. E. quarter of sec. 26 of Asa Gipe, and W. A. Gunn at nearly the same time purchased of Marion Gipe the south-east quarter of section 26 which they still hold.

Howard Bros. commenced business in 1874, in the building erected for them by Daniel Hodges the same year.

In the fall of 1874 A. B. Canfield built the building now occupied by him as a store but did not use it for that purpose until the next year.

W. F. Whitmore started his livery business in the year 1873, and built his first large stable in 1875.

C. E. Green built a building for a billiard hall in 1873, which after various changes, having been used for an office, residence, billiard hall and shoe shop, it is now occupied as a restaurant and shoe shop.

J. P. Hawkins located here in January 1873, buying the stock and building of T. A. Hendricks.

W. J. Waite started a drug store in 1874 and afterward sold to A. Sherwood.

The Edgar Exponent, a weekly newspaper, 6 column folio was started by F. M. Comstock in November 1875, and is now owned and published by W. J. Waite & E. B. Dewey.

Since January, 1875, the following persons have erected residences: Rev. Allen Ives, Rev. Dr. Dixon, M. S. Edgington two, C. F. Glazier, I. V. Howard, J. H. Brown, E. E. Howard, Chas. H. Ridgeway, Cyrus Steynor, J. R. Caudy, J. W. Gunn, O. J. Whitten, O. Crounman, J. P. Hawkins, and several others.

Cyrus Stayner built the large block now occupied by A. Sherwood druggist, C. E. Green, grocer, Joy & Culburison, milliners, J. V. Steynor, photographer and Steynor Bros., furniture dealers,

J. G. Thomas has a building occupied as a saloon.

Cyrus Stayner built the building now used as the postoffice and Exponent printing office. S. J. Whitten built the lumber office now owned by Tidball and Fuller; C. F. Shedd & Co. an office; A. S. Briggs a blacksmith shop; W. F. Whitmore a livery stable; W. A. Gunn an office; C. E. Green, shoe shop; J. P. Hawkins, residence; the Methodist Episcopal church parsonage and other buildings were also built within that time.

The following gives a synopsis of the business of the town: 3 general stores, 1 grocery store, 1 hardware store, 2 drug stores, 1 furniture store, 1 photograph gallery, 1 millinery store, 2 lumber yards, 2 billiard halls, 2 hotels, 2 livery stables, 1 saloon, 1 harness shop, 1 shoe shop, 3 real estate agents, 2 lawyers, 2 notary publics, 2 physicians, 1 newspaper and job printing office, 3 grain dealers, 2 restaurants, 2 resident ministers, 3 church organizations, 2 Sunday schools.

The number of scholars in the public school district is 53; population of the town about 200.

Edgar was incorporated as a town on the 15th of March 1875, and John Glazier, Andrew Sherwood, S. J. Whitten, Henry Gipe and E. E. Howard were appointed town trustees for one year.

CONCLUSION.

In the foregoing summary of facts relating to the settlement of Clay County and its several towns, we have endeavored to show their progress by submitting a sketch of the business represented in each locality, their public improvements and such incidents as have become prominent in their local history.

It shows what has been accomplished in a county from which the red men were expelled but ten years ago, nearly all of the present improvements having been made during the last six years.

This county, situated in the central portion of the fertile 'South Platte' country, consisting of prairie land, excepting the strips of timbered land on the borders of all streams of water, has been transformed from an apparently barren waste into a fruitful garden. Groves of young trees are springing up on every farm, each settler striving to add to the beauty and fertility of the country by raising not only fruit, but also forest trees, that will make this a 'timbered' county in the near future. We import lumber now, and start the forests that in ages to come are to supply the present waste in the forests of the east. Each succeeding "Arbor Day" adds thousands upon thou-

sands of young trees to those already planted.

The two railways that span the county have given an impetus to immigration and swelled our property valuation, lessening taxes and affording competing transportation facilities. And it is comforting to know that the county is free from bonded debt, and that the entire debt on all other accounts does not now exceed three thousand dollars.

Where six years ago the deer and the antelope skipped over the plain in their native freedom, now roam great herds of cattle, fattening on the luxuriant grass.

Then the wild flowers bloomed in their virgin beauty unnoticed. Now, great fields of waving grain are on every hand, telling, in silent eloquence, a story of peace and plenty.

Gathered here from every clime are representatives of the strongest and best disciplined races of the earth, who are building up a community on a foundation most favorable to the permanent prosperity of the "bone and sinew" of the world—where religious freedom, a free press, free speech and free schools flourish under a Constitution extending equal protection to all men.

All of which is respectfully submitted by
THE COMMITTEE.

ERRATA.**Town of Sutton.**

Page 1, Luther French was born in Lake county, not 'Geauga.'

Page 2, Mr. French commenced surveying the town August 12th, not 10th.

Page 2, County seat was located by a vote of 56 to 33 not 43.

Page 5, After the word 'Crete,' read: Turner Bros., C. M. and O. M., had a general assortment store in the building next to the Central Hotel, occupying it as such from the fall of 1874 until the summer of 1875, at which time it was moved over to Turner & Hunter's store.

Page 7, Fine arts Mrs. J. R. Maltby, piano and organ teacher.

COUNTY HISTORY.

Page 14, Read, in York county near the N. E. corner of School Creek precinct, Mrs. Kaley," etc

Page 15, School Creek precinct—P. O.,

Norman and John Kennedy settled in 1870 instead of 1871.

Page 15, Lincoln precinct—F. M. Davis Ezra Brown and Samuel Sloat were the first settlers, instead of the Conants, etc.

Page 15, Harvard precinct—Read, the first settlement was by Isaac Dawson and John Hockenthaler, in the fall of 1871 in the northern part of the precinct.

Page 16, Sutton precinct—After the name of J. S. Schermerhorn add a period instead of a comma.

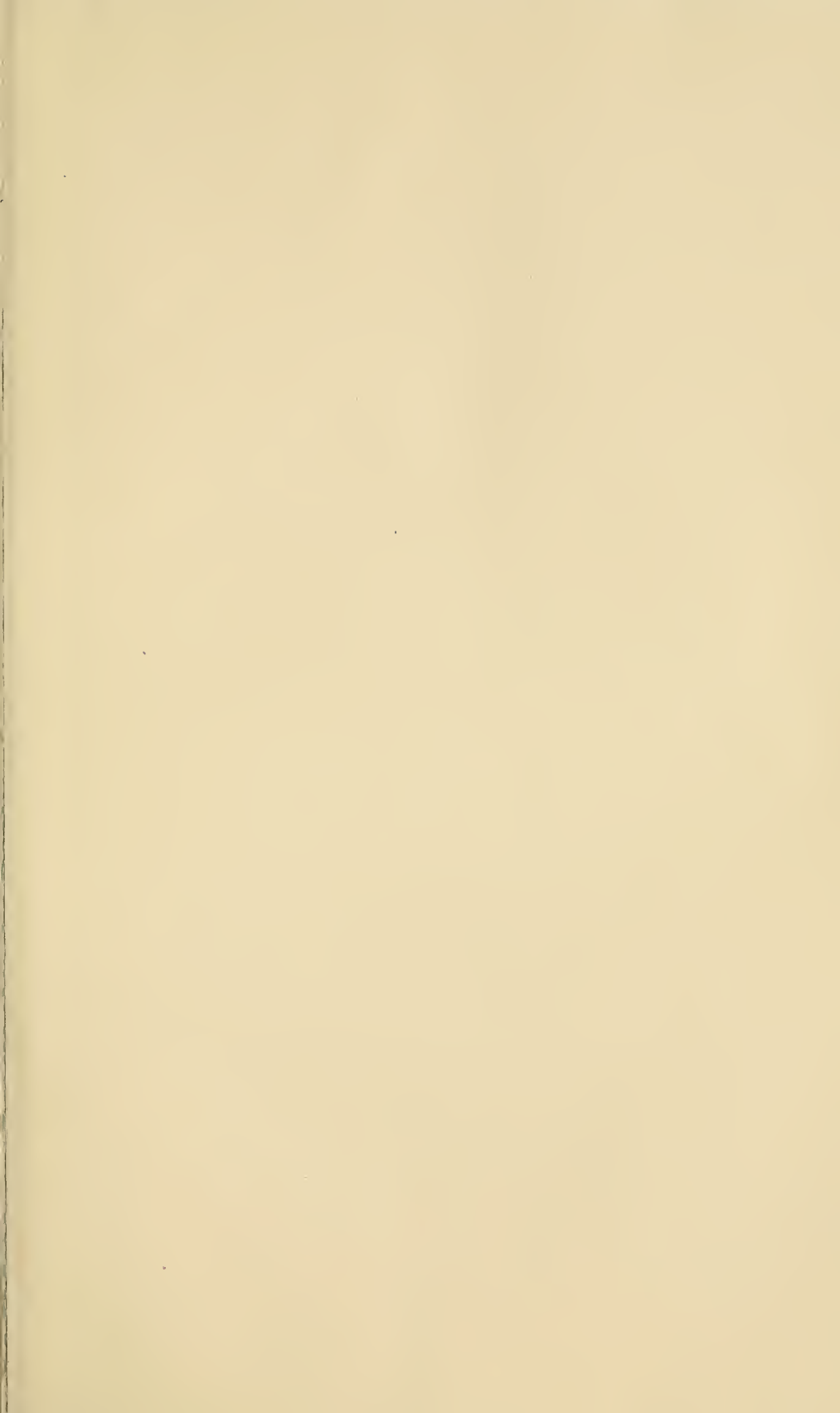
Page 16, Lewis precinct—A. D. Peterson, not 'P. D.'

Page 20, Town of Harvard—Dr. Vanderslice settled in May 1872 and moved away the following year. Drs. Todd, Jr. and Sen., came in the spring of 1872, the old gentleman is still practicing. Dr. I. D. Howard, Eclectic, settled in May 1873 and is still in the practice.

Page 17, Logan precinct—In the last line, read Jonathan Sanderson instead of J. K. Sauborn. Also insert the word "frame" before "school house," in the fourth line from the last.

*Submitted by M. S.
Chairman County Historical
Committee, Clay County*











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